



USS LST-759

Builder: American Bridge Company, Ambridge, Pennsylvania

Commissioned: 25 August 1944

Decommissioned: Reported as Navy-manned on 29 March 1946.

Disposition: Unknown

Length: 327' 9" oa

Beam: 50'

Draft: 1' 6" bow, 7' 5" stern (unloaded); 8' 2" bow, 14' 1" stern (loaded -- at sea); 3' 1" bow, 9' 6" (loaded -- beaching)

Displacement: 1,625 (light); 4,080 (w/ full load of 2,100 tons)

Propulsion: 2 x General Motors 12-567 diesels, twin shafts/rudders

Range: 24,000 nm @ 9 knots

Top Speed: 11.6 knots

Complement: 111

Troops: 163

Initial Armament: 7 x 40mm (single mount); 6 x 20 mm (single mount); 2 x .50-caliber mgs; 4 x .30-caliber mgs

Commanding Officers:

LT John Baybutt, USCGR: 8 August 1944 - 21 February 1946

ENS R. C. Kindred: 21 February 1946 - 29 March 1946

History:

USS *LST-759*

LST Flotilla 29, Group 85, Division 169

The Coast Guard-manned USS *LST-759* was commissioned in New Orleans on 25 August 1944 although her first commanding officer, LT John Baybutt, USCGR, officially took command on 8 August 1944. After alterations and drydocking to replace propellers damaged en route to New Orleans from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she proceeded to Panama City, Florida, for a 14 day shakedown on 1 September 1944. Returning to New Orleans for further minor alterations and logistics her cargo was loaded aboard.

On 26 September she sailed for Pearl Harbor via the Panama Canal and San Diego, California, arriving on 7 November 1944. She spent six weeks at Pearl Harbor and then on 16 December 1944, departed for Tinian in the Marianas with a cargo of engineering heavy equipment and 200 personnel of the Navy CBs. She arrived 1 January 1945, and after ferrying some US Marine rolling stock to Saipan, she returned to Pearl Harbor, arriving there on 24 January 1945.

Here pontoon causeways, an LCT, an LCM and three LCVPs were loaded aboard and she proceeded to Tulagi, Solomon Islands, a mounting and rehearsal area for the coming invasion of Okinawa. With the exception of the LCT, all smaller landing craft carried as cargo were removed at Tulagi two days following her arrival on 18 February 1945. A side trip to the Russell Islands was made on the 24th. Training and logistics followed and the ship sailed on 12 March 1945, for Ulithi with 400 Marine assault troops, 17 LVTs, ammunition, K rations, CB personnel, LCT personnel and other items, arriving at Ulithi on 21 March 1945, where four days were spent on the final staging before leaving on 25 March 1945, for Okinawa. The ship arrived at Okinawa on 1 April 1945, and launched its LVTs, causeways, and LCT spending the following 12 days in unloading, fueling small craft and anti-aircraft defense, including a sure assist in the destruction of a Japanese Nakajima Tenzan B6N "Jill" torpedo bomber credited by the Task Group commander.

On 12 April 1945, she sailed for Saipan and thence to Guam arriving there on 6 May 1945 for six weeks of availability. A resupply call at Okinawa was made on 14 July 1945, with Army Engineer personnel. Two ferrying trips were then made to Motobu Peninsula from Naha with U. S. Marine gear and personnel and then personnel of the 3rd Navy Mobile Hospital Corps were received aboard and the LST then sailed for Guam, Saipan and the Russell Islands, arriving at her final of Guadalcanal on 18 August 1945. Here she received Navy CB stevedoring personnel for Noumea, New Caledonia, where she arrived on 27 August 1945, departing thence for Espiritu Santo and arriving there on the 31st. Here she loaded housing equipment and rolling stock for the Russell Islands, arriving there

on 14 September 1945. She sailed the next day with 200 Navy CB personnel for Leyte via Guam, arriving 25 October 1945.

She left Tacloban on 20 November 1945 and arrived at San Francisco on 22 January 1946, via Pearl Harbor and San Pedro. Here she was turned over to the Navy on 29 March 1946. She was formally decommissioned on 16 July 1946. Her ultimate fate is unknown.

The *LST-759* was awarded one battle star for her service during World War II.

Photographs:

None available.

Sources:

LST files, Coast Guard Historian's Office.

United States Coast Guard. *The Coast Guard At War. V. Transports and Escorts. Vol. 2.* Washington: Public Information Division, Historical Section, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, May 1, 1949, pp. 66-116.

United States Navy. *Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.* Volume VII. Washington: Naval Historical Center, 1981, pp. 574-742.

